

his retirement this month after a career of more than thirty years as a distinguished Master Cabinet Maker for the U.S. House of Representatives. We depend so greatly on the talented carpentry staff to ensure that House offices are properly equipped to perform the people's work, and I want to thank all of those employees, like Chris, who are working hard to restore, maintain, and upgrade the furnishings of this historic building of more than two centuries.

Chris aspired to be a woodworker from a young age, and he attended the St. Mary's County Technical Center, now called the Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center. After working on his family's tobacco farm and in several other jobs, including house-building, Chris applied for a job opening in the House cabinet shop. His father had worked for the Congress before serving in the U.S. military, and his mother, also previously in Congressional employment, drove him to the interview. Indeed, Chris grew up in a home steeped in public service and love of country.

Impressing the manager with the breadth of his woodworking knowledge and his hands-on skills, Chris was hired on the spot, and he began serving as an Apprentice Cabinet Maker. He started out running service calls and soon advanced to the position of Journeyman. Chris honed his skills on the job under the tutelage of his former Managers—Art Baltrym, Peter Shipman, and Anthony Thompson—all distinguished furniture makers. One of his most memorable tasks included redesigning the furnishings in the historic office used by Rep. JAMES CLYBURN, now the Democratic Whip. This included constructing a custom desk, glass cabinets, and a matching credenza, all still in use today. The cabinet shop was often called to perform other tasks in the historic Hall of the House, and Chris and his co-workers spent many hours refurbishing the seats on the House Floor and installing safety measures to protect Members in the years after the 9/11 attacks. He also worked on the Floor of the House and on the Speaker's dais and podium.

Chris has been the cabinet shop's Design Specialist for over ten years and has been responsible for designing every piece of constructed furniture during that time. He is considered an exceptionally valuable Master of the Trade. When reflecting on his achievements, Chris has cited countless committee-room renovations and his involvement in completing the equipment consoles on the daises in each of the House's committee rooms.

Chris was here twenty years ago during the tragic 9/11 attacks and the evacuation of the Capitol complex. He was at work when an earthquake struck the District of Columbia, ten years ago, causing structural damage and cracks to the Capitol Building. Chris was also on campus during the fatal shootings of U.S. Capitol Police Detective John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut on July 24, 1998, as well as, earlier this year, during the attack on the Capitol on January 6, when he and so many others had to shelter in place. Like so many others serving in House employment, Chris has been a firsthand witness to history and to the challenges and threats facing the Capitol and all who work here.

During the COVID pandemic, Chris has taken a lead role in the shop. He has continued to demonstrate high standards with re-

spect to building and design, and he has been assigning work, answering calls, attending meetings, and handling shop attendance during these trying times and while working to protect the health and safety of his co-workers. I continue to express my admiration for all of those, like Chris and his colleagues, who are working here during the pandemic to keep Congress operating and to help Members perform their jobs for the American people.

Chris is retiring after an illustrious career in House employment, and I am told that he plans to spend more time pursuing his passions of fishing, hunting and drag racing while continuing to work part-time in electrical and woodworking. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in extending congratulations to Chris Martin for his many years of dedication, superb craftsmanship, and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives, many of which we literally sit in today on this Floor. I join in wishing him a very enjoyable retirement and thank him for all of his hard work in service to this House and to our country.

HONORING TOM BURKE FOR HIS
SERVICE TO THE KERN COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 3, 2021

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Burke for his exemplary leadership in serving the residents of Kern and Tulare County for 20 years in his role as the Kern Community College District (KCCD) Chief Financial Officer and Chancellor.

Tom graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in 1981, and has lived in Bakersfield, California since. Before working for the KCCD, Tom was employed by the Getty Oil Company from 1981 to 1985 and earned his master's degree from California State University, Bakersfield shortly thereafter. He moved on to work for Contel, a telecommunications company, until joining Bakersfield College in 1997 as the Director of Business Services. In 2001, Tom was tapped to be the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the KCCD, beginning a long career serving community colleges in the Kern and Tulare counties. When Tom first took over as CFO, the district's finances were shaky and the fiscal reserve was only at 5% of its annual operating budget, making the district vulnerable to financial difficulties. As of this past year, the district's reserve is about 50% of its annual operating budget, making it one of the healthiest in the State of California. The turnaround is a testament to Tom's leadership and commitment to our community.

In 2017, Tom was appointed Chancellor of the KCCD, a widely supported move that was also endorsed by the Bakersfield College Student Government Association, who called him a "champion for student voice and concerns." While Tom retired from his role in July of this past year, his mark on the Kern Community College District will undoubtedly endure. As Chancellor, Tom oversaw Bakersfield College, Cerro Coso College, and Porterville College. His deep understanding of student's needs and higher education allowed the district to in-

crease its enrollment and seamlessly transition to virtual learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tom played a significant role in overseeing the management of the district's water-improved bond monies, which aimed to fund new construction projects throughout the KCCD, such as the Bakersfield College Vernon Valenzuela Veteran Resource Center. Under his leadership, Bakersfield College saw its largest graduating class in history, and the district's three schools were among California's community colleges that were least affected by the pandemic in terms of enrollment.

Throughout his 20-year tenure with the district, Tom devoted himself to improving community education and serving others. He has worked to ensure that all students are provided with the resources and services that are fundamental to an effective education, and in doing so, Tom has established himself as an educational standard and community leader of utmost integrity, generosity, and competency. I am grateful for Tom's friendship and the service he has provided for the Kern and Tulare communities. On behalf of the 23rd Congressional District of California, I wish Tom and his wife, Tina, the best as he embarks on this next chapter in his life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES
WILEY GAINES, JR.

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 3, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of James "Jim" Wiley Gaines, Jr., who passed away on Friday, August 27, 2021, at the age of 85. Jim was a longtime resident of Tyler County, and deeply respected by all who knew him.

Jim was born on July 19, 1936, in Houston, Texas to Evelyn and James Gaines. He was a U.S. Air Force serviceman stationed at Ellington Air Force Base in Houston when he and Lynette married. In 1964, they moved to Woodville and Jim went to work for his father-in-law, Leroy Davis, at Western Auto. Lynette and Jim were blessed with two daughters, Laura and Susan.

Jim served on numerous boards including but not limited to: serving as Past President of the Tyler County Chamber of Commerce; Past President of The Woodville Rotary Club; and a member of the Board of Trustees of The Woodville Independent School District. Jim was the recipient of the James E. Wheat Award which recognizes truly exceptional leaders. He unselfishly gave of his time and talents to the Tyler County Dogwood Festival, a festival that celebrates the traditions and beauty of East Texas.

In 1978, Jim pursued a new vocation, steadfastly serving as an R.N. He worked in both nursing and administration at the Tyler County Hospital. Jim also worked part-time at Woodville Health and Rehab which he felt was one of the most rewarding jobs he had ever had the privilege to perform. In 2020, he and Lynette moved to Beaumont to be closer to family.

Jim Gainey is remembered by his friends and family as "A devoted husband, loving father, and perfect Papa. He will be remembered for his faithfulness to the Lord, his impassioned love for people, his selfless generosity, and fierce commitment to his family."

Jim is survived by his wife, Lynette Davis Gainey, two daughters and their husbands, Laura and Byron Young of Beaumont, and Susan and Mike Ferguson of Austin, grandchildren Mark Young and wife Katie, Emily Valerio and husband Isaac, William Young, Leah Goertz and husband Ryne, Nathan Watts, and Benjamin Watts, great grandchildren James, Claire, Ellis, Abraham, and Charlotte. He is also survived by two brothers, Hugh Gainey and his wife Elaine Rogers, A.R. and Paul Gainey of Houston, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents James Wiley Gainey and Evelyn Gerrard Gainey, and his sister, Allison Gainey Stephens.

Madam Speaker, I would like to honor my friend, Jim Gainey, for his service to our country and for his many years of faithful service to our community. My thoughts and heartfelt prayers remain with his family and friends during this difficult time.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEORGIA FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

HON. A. DREW FERGUSON IV

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 3, 2021

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in August. Headquartered in my home district in LaGrange, Georgia, the association has solidified itself as the premier resource for growers in an area that is essential to Georgia's economy and prosperity.

By providing services such as education programs to maximize production, marketing opportunities to increase profits, and disaster management tools to handle natural disasters and other crises affecting the industry, the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association is without question a cornerstone of agriculture and a boon to specialty crop growers across the state.

Throughout the pandemic, the association has instituted a multitude of innovative solutions aimed toward helping its members and Georgia's specialty crop growers. They have also worked diligently with national organizations and congressional offices to secure relief aid through the Coronavirus Food and Assistance Program for those in need.

As the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association rounds out 25 years, I look forward to a bright future of continued strength and advocacy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this association's great accomplishments.

HONORING SAMANTHA ROSANNE MACON'S 50TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 3, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Samantha Rosanne Macon of Dearborn Heights, Michigan, on the occasion of her 50th birthday. Her continued service to our community is worthy of commendation.

Mrs. Macon was born in Dearborn, Michigan, to Rose Tripepi and Joseph Czapiewski. A graduate of Annapolis High School, she later attended Henry Ford College and Eastern Michigan University, graduating with honors. Mrs. Macon holds a master's degree in education and teaches at Simpson Middle School in Flat Rock, Michigan. In 2006, she married Dino Macon and together they have two dogs and a cat.

When she is not in the classroom with her middle schoolers, Mrs. Macon continues to teach and serve her community. She can be found at the Eton Senior Center in Dearborn Heights, teaching seniors how to decorate cupcakes. She is also an active member of her church and volunteers there often.

Mrs. Macon is known by friends and family as someone with a kind and generous heart, who is always there to help those in need. In her downtime, she enjoys hosting gatherings for friends and family, visiting the beach, baking, and traveling.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Samantha Rosanne Macon on her 50th birthday. I join with her family and friends in extending my best and warmest wishes to her on this special day. I am proud to honor her life, her accomplishments, and her invaluable contributions to our community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF KEVIN VAN BUSKIRK

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 3, 2021

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of an esteemed leader in Contra Costa County, Kevin Van Buskirk, and congratulate him on his retirement from the Contra Costa Building & Construction Trades Council and Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union No. 104.

Kevin was born in Pleasant Hill, California, to Joel and Deanna Van Buskirk. After graduating in 1979, he became a Teamster and worked as a tire man in San Leandro. After his apprenticeship with Marelich Mechanical at the Chevron Campus, he became an official sheet metal worker. While working as a journeyman, foreman, and general foreman, Kevin actively organized with Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union No. 104 by attending meetings, events, union pickets, and protests.

In November of 1995, Kevin was appointed as the union's first full-time organizer. As an example of the important work he has done, his efforts to hold a particular non-union company accountable led to the involvement of the

Santa Clara County District Attorney and the revelation of ongoing wage theft. In 2000, Kevin was elected Business Representative for Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union No. 104. He also served as a delegate to the Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council, as well as a delegate to the Contra Costa Central Labor Council. In 2007, Kevin became President of the Contra Costa Building & Construction Trades Council and Vice President of the Contra Costa Central Labor Council.

In these capacities, he has negotiated numerous project labor agreements and has assisted many young men and women, as well as our returning veterans, into the trades.

Kevin firmly believes that becoming a unionized tradesman has resulted in the success of his career and the ability to provide for his family.

I wish Kevin well in his retirement and thank him for his enduring commitment to the rights of all workers. Please join me in honoring Kevin Van Buskirk for his many contributions to our community.

HONORING ROBERT AND DIANE FINDLAY AS IOWANS OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 3, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Diane and Robert Findlay as Iowans of the Week.

Every day, people of all ages and backgrounds read books for different reasons. Some read books to spark their imagination, and others read books for more insight on fascinating topics. For Diane and Robert Findlay, books are so much more than that. The Findlays started a book club in their community of Dallas Center, Iowa called Read & Serve. This group is not your average get-together to discuss the week's literature. The Read & Serve book club is made up of members of different faiths, like Baha'is, Christians, and free thinkers alike. While their faiths vary, they all share a common passion: community. Diane and Robert belong to the Baha'i faith, and they constantly look for opportunities to get involved in their local community, specifically through prayer, learning, and serving with neighbors and friends.

While the Read & Serve book club enjoys discussing their current readings, they also enjoy participating in service projects to further cultivate their collective sense of community. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Findlay's book club still wanted to find a project to get involved with that allowed them to give back, albeit in a safe manner. They heard of a project happening in New York where people were donating their used books to local and county jails for the incarcerated individuals to delve into. The Read & Serve book club connected with the Dallas County Sheriff and Dallas County Jail to see what they could do to get new books into the facility.

The Findlay's book club, with the help of the county jail, created a survey listing a multitude of genres to gauge the interest of the inmates. The survey showed they were interested in almost every genre imaginable. From westerns